



**Texas Division of Emergency Management
State Situation Report**

New Information is in Blue Text

Event Name	20-0013 August Tropical Weather
Date	September 16, 2020
Time	0800
Operational Period	September 15 to September 16, 2020
Report Number	24

Regions Affected	
DPS Regions Affected	2
DDCs Active	

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: On September 15, Governor Abbott announced that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has received federal approval to automatically provide replacement benefits for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients for food lost or destroyed due to Hurricane Laura in eight of the impacted counties: Hardin, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby and Tyler. Those eight counties met federal criteria for mass replacements of benefits based on the severity of storm impacts in their area.

SNAP recipients in the eight impacted counties do not need to take any action to receive their replacement benefits. A percentage of the benefit allotment for August will be automatically issued to all regular SNAP households in the affected counties and placed on their Lone Star cards by September 18. Individuals in these counties have until September 30 to report other food loss and request additional benefits in addition to the benefits automatically replaced.

HHSC also received approval to waive the 10-day reporting requirement in 35 additional counties so that impacted households will have until Sept. 30, 2020, to report SNAP food loss and request replacement benefits. SNAP recipients in these counties must apply for replacement benefits.

Impacted eligible counties in Governor Abbott's disaster declaration include: Anderson, Angelina, Bowie, Brazoria, Camp, Cass, Chambers, Cherokee, Fort Bend, Franklin, Galveston, Gregg, Harris, Harrison, Houston, Jasper, Liberty, Marion, Matagorda, Montgomery, Morris, Nacogdoches, Panola, Polk, Red River, Rusk, San Jacinto, Smith, Titus, Trinity, Upshur, Walker, Waller, Wharton, and Wood.

To allow people to continue social distancing and stay at home, HHSC is encouraging SNAP clients to request their replacement food benefits by calling 2-1-1 and pressing option 2.

Alternately, recipients can download [Form H1855](#) (Affidavit for Non-receipt or Destroyed Food Stamp Benefits) on the HHSC website. To limit exposure to COVID-19, recipients are encouraged to mail or fax the completed form to HHSC instead of visiting their local offices. Completed forms should be mailed to Texas Health and Human Services Commission, PO Box 149027, Austin, TX, 78714-9027, or faxed to 1-877-447-2839. For more information, please visit hhs.texas.gov.

FEMA has approved the emergency declaration for the State of Texas (FEMA-3540-EM) for the counties of Anderson, Angelina, Aransas, Bexar, Bowie, Brazoria, Calhoun, Cameron, Camp, Cass, Chambers, Cherokee, Dallas, Ellis, Fort Bend, Franklin, Galveston, Gregg, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Houston, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Kenedy, Kleberg, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Marion, Matagorda, Montgomery, Morris, Nacogdoches, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Panola, Polk, Red River, Refugio, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Shelby, Smith, Tarrant, Titus, Travis, Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Wharton, Willacy and Wood for reimbursement for eligible emergency protective measures (Category B), limited to direct Federal assistance and reimbursement for mass care including evacuation and shelter support.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Recovery
2. Sheltering and Mass Care
3. Points of distribution operations.
4. Accurate Damage assessments
5. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
6. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

To view the summaries of disaster declarations, letters to the Governor or Disaster Summary Outlines go to: <https://tdem.texas.gov/disaster-summary-outline-2/>

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas A&M University System (TDEM):

The State of Texas State Operations Center (SOC) remains at Readiness Level II Escalated Response Conditions. The Daily Operations staff continues to process disaster declarations, letters to the Governor, Disaster Summary Outlines, State of Texas Assistance Requests (STARs), as well as disseminating severe weather messages, preparing Snapshots and the State SITREP. The State Management Team (SMT) continues conducting operations in the alternate State Operations Center, working together with activated members of the State's Emergency Management Council. TDEM District Coordinators are working closely with their local emergency management partners to assist with any unmet needs and resources.

TDEM Mass Care: TDEM Mass Care continues to coordinate the state-supported non-congregate shelter mission. Evacuees remain in non-congregate shelters throughout the state. TDEM is working with the state of Louisiana on the repopulation of their residents that sought shelter in Texas.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):

Drinking Water Systems: Drinking Water System Assessment data pulled from the Natural Disaster Operations Workgroup (NDOW) Response Manager Database [as of 2:00 PM Tuesday, September 15, 2020](#).

Phone assessments are being conducted for 171 drinking water systems in seven counties including: Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Sabine and San Augustine.

- Of the 171 systems assessed, 160 are operational (4 are operational on generators) and 4 are non-operational.
- 22 systems are under a Boil Water Notice and 33 have been rescinded.

TCEQ continues to conduct Visible Emissions and Odor Surveys in Jefferson and Orange Counties. No issues have been noted. The TCEQ ER contractor (CTEH) is continuing to conduct air monitoring operations during daylight hours in the areas of facilities that are starting up operations. [The latest air monitoring data from late afternoon Monday, September 14 through late afternoon Tuesday, September 15 indicate no readings above an action level. All were non-detect.](#)

Ambient Monitoring Stations: One station (Orange 1st Street) is without power. [The power pole at the Orange 1st Street station was replaced and is awaiting inspection before power to the site can be restored.](#)

The Beaumont Waste Section has approved 12 Temporary Debris Management sites which are located in Newton County (6 sites – 2 are TxDOT sites), Sabine County (2 TxDOT sites), Orange County (2 sites – 1 TxDOT site), and Jasper County (1 site). The region expects to be monitoring these sites over the next few months to assure that the waste is being properly managed. [TCEQ staff are conducting weekly inspections on all of the approved Temporary Debris Management Sites.](#)



Texas Military Department (TMD): TMD currently has [145](#) activated personnel in support of the August tropical weather response. TMD is supporting multiple shelter sites with ETN operations in the DFW Metroplex Area.

Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs):

American Red Cross (ARC): The ARC is providing dormitory management to multiple non-congregate hotel shelters across the state.

Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC): SBTC IMT is working out of the Liberty Baptist Church in Bridge City. [SBTC to date, has provided: 1,154 showers, 772 loads of laundry, 283 homes completed, 350 total requests received, 168 generator hours, 126 heavy equipment hours, 10,939 total meals prepared and 11,260 volunteer hours.](#)

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

BUSES	AMBULANCES
	
6	6 Ambulance (FEMA)

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TMD	GSU HQ	4		Assigned	Dallas
TMD	MDC DDC 4A	2		Assigned	Fort Worth
TMD	MDC DDC 4B	2		Assigned	Dallas
TMD	ETN Teams	107		Assigned	Mesquite
TMD	Adaptive Battle Staff	30		Assigned	Various

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) remains at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions). The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at:
<https://tdem.texas.gov/situation-reports/>

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